

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 4-6, 10 and 15 are amended. Support for the amendments to claims 1, 10 and 15 can be found, for example, in Figs. 16 and 17 of the application. No new matter is added. Reconsideration of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-17 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. The rejection is obviated by the above amendments. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-14, 16 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Stier, WO 99/47362 A1.

Stier does not disclose a package member having a flap member in which, when the flap member is in an open state, a topside of the package member completely covers the sheets at a downstream end portion in a sheet feed direction when placed in a printer, as recited in independent claim 1 and similarly recited in independent claim 10.

Stier discloses a paper cartridge that is foldable between open and closed states (see Figs. 4, 5 and 7). The paper cartridge in Stier is composed of a paperboard blank 20 that has a top panel 24, a bottom panel 22 and locking flap 26 (see Fig. 8 and page 4, lines 17 and 18). Locking flap 26 can be inserted into slot 36 to fix the paper cartridge in an open state (see Fig. 8). However, as illustrated in Fig. 8, when in an open state, the top panel 24 does not completely cover the sheets 50 at a downstream end portion in a sheet feed direction. Therefore, Stier does not disclose a package member having a flap member in which, when the flap member is in an open state, a topside of the package member completely covers the sheets at a downstream end portion in a sheet feed direction when placed in a printer, as recited in independent claims 1 and similarly recited in independent claim 10. Therefore,

independent claims 1 and 10 and dependent claims 2-9, 11-14, 16 and 17 are patentable over Stier. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-13, 16 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over JP-A-48-104334 (JP 334), in view of Fujiwara, WO 2001/89957 and further in view of Miller, U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0089671 A1; rejects claims 1-11, 16 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Medoff, U.S. Patent No. 1,883,852 in view of Fujiwara, and further in view of Miller; rejects claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Ishiduka et al. (Ishiduka), U.S. Patent No. 6,217,019 in view of Fujiwara and further in view of Miller; and rejects claim 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over JP 334 in view of Fujiwara, and further in view of Medoff and Miller. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

Miller does not qualify as prior art against this application. Miller was filed in the U.S. on October 7, 2003. Miller claims priority to provisional application 60/496,080, filed August 18, 2003, and provisional application 60/424,616, filed November 7, 2002. All of these dates are well after Applicants' March 28, 2002 priority date. In order to perfect their priority claim, Applicants submit the attached accurate English-language translation of Applicants' priority document (JP 2002-092826), which supports all claims of this application. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the rejections be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejects claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Stier in view of Ishiduka. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

The combination of Stier and Ishiduka fails to disclose, and would not have rendered obvious, a package member having a flap member where when the flap member is in an open state, a topside of the package member completely covers the sheets at a downstream end portion in a sheet feed direction when placed in a printer, as recited in independent claim 15.

As discussed above, Stier does not disclose the above features. Ishiduka fails to overcome the deficiencies of Stier, and is only cited for disclosing the claimed indicator part.

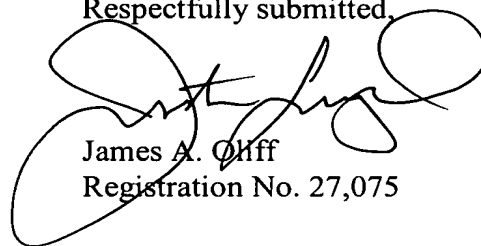
Therefore, independent claim 15 is patentable over the combination of Stier and Ishiduka.

Thus, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:

Verified English Translation of Japanese Application No. 2002-092826

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